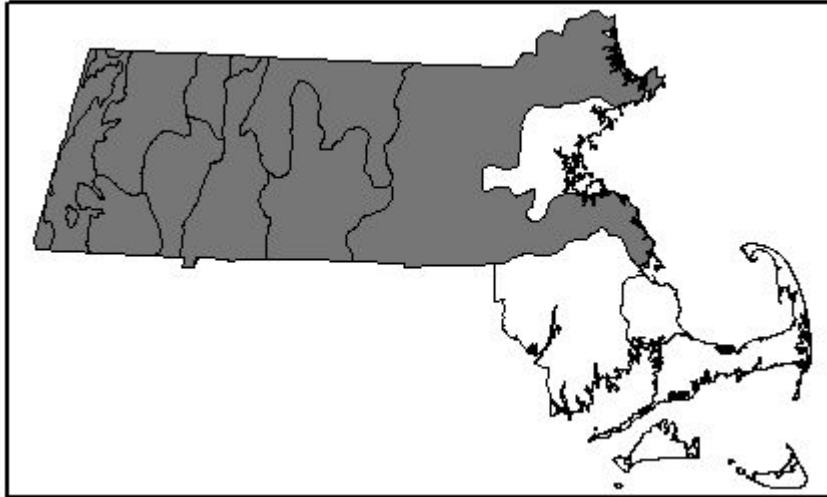


Community Name: SUCCESSIONAL NORTHERN HARDWOODS

Community Code: CT1C1B0000

SRANK: S5



Concept: A broadly defined time sequence of forest communities, from thick young sprouts with little diversity to mature, diversifying forests with undergrowth of more shade tolerant trees. The canopy is seldom completely closed and undergrowth may be dense or open.

Environmental Setting: Areas with past major disturbance such as cutting, hurricane, or fire within northern hardwood forest areas.

Vegetation Description: Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), white birch (*Betula papyrifera*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and /or black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) dominate the community. Gray birch (*Betula populifolia*) tends to be more common on very well drained soils. Pin cherry (*Prunus pensylvanica*) is a common associate. As the forest matures, the understory is made up of young trees of more shade tolerant species. Shrubs and herbaceous species are variable, and depend on surrounding seed sources and the type of disturbance the established the early successional community.

Associations:

Habitat Values for Associated Fauna: The structure of a community is important to animals. Successional communities change in structure quite quickly, and the animals change as the vegetation grows, and there is a sequence of use. For 0 to 10 years trees are dense but small, often with blackberry (*Rubus* spp.) below. Fugitive bird species such as Chestnut-sided Warblers (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) and Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) are common in the first 5 years after a major disturbance even, especially if there are dead snags left for singing perches. Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) and woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) are classic users of younger forest, as is the New England cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*). After 30 years, the community should include most commonly found mammals.

Associated Rare Plants:

NONE KNOWN

Associated Rare Animals:

NONE KNOWN

Examples with Public Access: Birch Hill WMA, Athol.

Threats:

Management Needs:

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC: Populus tremuloides - Betula papyrifera Forest Alliance -- Populus (tremuloides, grandidentata) - Betula (populifolia, papyrifera) Forest [CEGL006303] AND Populus tremuloides - Betula papyrifera / Acer saccharum - Mixed Hardwoods Forest [CEGL002468]; Betula papyrifera Forest Alliance--Betula papyrifera / Acer saccharum - Mixed hardwoods Forest [CEGL002464].

MA (old name): Part of: CNE MESIC HARDWOOD FOREST ON ACIDIC BEDROCK/TILL.

ME: Early successional forest community.

NH: Successional stages not recognized.

VT: Successional stages not recognized, part of Northern Hardwoods Forests.

NY: Successional Northern Hardwoods.

CT: Not described.

RI: Successional stages not recognized.

Weatherbee: Part of Mesic Northern Hardwood Forest Community.

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Date:

1/11/00